

# **Animal Advisory Board**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting:** October 22, 2014

**Minutes Prepared By:** Susan Perry/John Norfleet

### **1. Purpose of Meeting**

Bi-monthly meeting

### **2. Attendance at Meeting**

#### **Board Members (\*non-voting members)**

Rob Blizzard	Marie Jensen	Cpt. Hudson (for Capt. Pratt) *	Jean Linman
Debbie Donour	Daphna Nachminovitch	Barbara Hays*	Dorothy Winn
Debra Griggs			

#### **Resident and City Staff**

Doug Beckmann	David Freeman	John Norfleet	Seth Cheshire
Jake Roos	Susan Perry	Brad Huffman	

### **3. Agenda**

Review minutes from previous board meetings  
Board member updates  
Meeting date discussion  
Proposed ordinance review  
Discussion about recommendations  
Nacc update and specific concerns  
Board members term expirations  
Any concerns/issues/questions

### **4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues**

#### **1. Review minutes from previous board meetings**

- Approved with changes (see attached)

#### **2. Board member updates**

- Welcome/introduction of Lt. Hudson who was filling in for Captain Pratt
- Erin Edwards has moved

#### **3. Meeting date discussion**

- Jean asked board members if a change in meeting time was desirable – perhaps to the daytime. Some members mentioned it was difficult to get downtown in the evening and earlier would be better; some had issues with day meetings because of work
- The board settled on meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30pm, every other month

#### **4. Board members term expirations**

- Tyler Carmack, Deborah Donour and Peter Gerlach terms will expire in January (in addition to Erin's position)
- If anyone is unhappy and would rather not serve on the committee, now would be a good time to let Jean know

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- It was asked if board members could recommend people to serve – would go through City Clerk's office – application to serve on boards/commission; Jean will send application to Rob

#### **5. *Proposed ordinance review***

- Cindy Hall from the City Attorney's Office was not able to make the meeting so David will try and carry the message regarding the ordinance changes but noted that he won't be able to answer legal questions.
- Debra Griggs noted that two of the recommendations were not as the board proposed in a document that she had in her files. She is not sure who authored the document but said it looked like a city produced document; David will check the files to clarify
- Board members wondered if there was anyone else in the City Attorney's Office (CAO) willing to assist the board with the ordinance. It was noted that it makes sense to meet face to face so their questions could be answered and they can have discussion about it and move forward. The board decided to move on and their concerns would be recorded and relayed to the CAO. The City will communicate with the board electronically in order to docket it for a Council meeting quickly.
- Items that did not make it into the ordinance are as follows
  - Adequate Space
  - Tethering
  - Home-based rescues definition (was alignment with state code)
  - Definition of pounds – this is no longer allowed in Virginia (this is a change since they made these proposed changes)
  - Breeder permits
  - Pet Shops
- David mentioned that the CAO won't weigh in on policy issues but rather will do the code clean up and housekeeping items for us
- Jean mentioned that she wants to get something before City Council even if it doesn't include everything the board recommended
  - The board agreed but wants to keep the door open to policy items
- Deb Donour mentioned that she has some concern over the recommendations that were previously submitted to Council. She feels like perhaps the board made a mistake by trying to eat the whole elephant at once when they didn't know what Council wanted from the board; she thought we should make the save rate the mission statement with all other recommendations below it; She suggested that we relook at the recommendations and focus on a couple of items first like increasing adoptions
- Jean said that there was no clear direction given to them and that Dr. Whibley recently mentioned at a Council meeting that Council needed to provide guidance to their boards and commissions and mentioned the AAB; Jean wonders if other boards are struggling with this issue as well?
- Rob Blizzard disagrees and does not believe the board did anything wrong
- Debbie clarified and said that they needed Council members to be their partners on the recommendations, not that the board hasn't done their jobs

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- Rob said they don't feel any partnership with members of council; many board members agreed and feel like it is a stalling tactic
  - It was suggested that they write an op-ed letter to the pilot stating that they have been waiting 14 months for a response from Council. There was discussion about putting Council on public notice
  - Other members disagreed and didn't think this would accomplish the goal; it was agreed instead that the board would attend a council meeting and speak during the public comment section when the ordinance was presented
- Jean reiterated that she would like to get something before the Council and the board walked through each of the items in ordinance from the CAO. They still have concerns about a couple of items as most of what remains that was not included bring the city code up to date with the state code. They would like more explanation on the following:
  - Section 6.1-2 Adequate Water: State code takes out the line 'but at least once every 12 hours'. The AAB requested that it be removed; however, it still remains.
  - Section 6.1-2 Vicious Animal: the term 'including but limited to' was added. The AAB changed the Code to align with State code which simplifies the code in an attempt to make it clearer. The City code ordinance is broader with these terms.
  - Section 6.1-2: The AAB would like to define 'serious injury' and mirror it's definition in the State Code 3.2-6540.1
  - Section 6.1-84: discusses the three (3) day hold for feral animals. The AAB requests that this ordinance NOT be changed at all. There was some discussion as to who this specifically applied to, and upon further examination of the current code, we believe that the current code, not the proposed ordinance language, provides the best language to protect feral animals.

#### **Discussion about recommendations**

- The board also mentioned that two of their recommendations were not addressed at all and they would like them included or more reason why they would not be included:
  1. Update #18 - Sec. 6.1-82 (a): Authority to impound animals found within City limits – this recommendation was not included
    - a. Change City Code section 6.1-82 (a) to the following:

ORIGINAL	RECOMMENDED
(a) The animal control officer is hereby authorized to seize and impound any animals suspected of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Suffering a direct or immediate threat to its life, safety or health which the owner or custodian has failed or refused to remedy;</li> <li>(2) Being abandoned or at large;</li> <li>(3) Being cruelly treated;</li> <li>(4) Being unlicensed;</li> <li>(5) Being used for gaming or other illegal activity;</li> <li>(6) Being a dangerous animal in violation of section 6.1-80</li> <li>(7) Being a vicious animal in violation of section 6.1-81</li> <li>(8) A violation of section 6.1-10; or</li> <li>(9) A violation of any other state or federal law or regulation concerning animals; or</li> <li>(10) A violation of section 6.1-76</li> </ol>	(a) The animal control officer is hereby authorized to seize and impound any animals suspected of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Suffering a direct or immediate threat to its life, safety or health which the owner or custodian has failed or refused to remedy;</li> <li>(2) Being abandoned or at large;</li> <li>(3) Being cruelly treated;</li> <li><del>2. Being unlicensed;</del></li> <li><del>(4) Being used for gaming or other illegal activity;</del></li> <li><del>(5) Being a dangerous animal in violation of section 6.1-80</del></li> <li><del>(6) Being a vicious animal in violation of section 6.1-81</del></li> <li><del>(7) A violation of section 6.1-10; or</del></li> <li><del>(8) A violation of any other state or federal law or regulation concerning animals; or</del></li> <li>(9) A violation of section 6.1-76</li> </ol>

3. Update #20 - Sec. 6.1-85 (a) & (b): City animal pound; confinement and disposition of stray.
  - a. Change City code section 6.1-85 (a) & (b) to the following:

ORIGINAL	RECOMMENDED
(a) All stray animals seized by the animal control officer shall be impounded at the city animal management care center or other designated facility. The owner or custodian of the animal shall be responsible for all costs of seizure, impoundment, board and veterinary care for the seized animal. Such costs shall become a	(a) All stray animals seized by the animal control officer shall be impounded at the city animal management care center or other designated facility. The owner or custodian of the animal shall be responsible for all costs of seizure, impoundment, board and veterinary care for the seized animal. Such costs shall become a

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<p>lien against the owner or custodian and must be discharged prior to release of the animal.</p> <p>(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to harbor or keep stray or an ownerless animal for more than forty-eight (48) hours without notifying the animal protection unit. All stray animals found by any person within the city limits shall be brought to the city animal management center for confinement and disposition within ten (10) days. Anyone bringing such an animal to the city animal management center will be allowed to claim such animal after the holding period provided such animal is not determined to be a health or safety hazard. Impoundment and boarding fees shall be waived for such person upon payment of the adoption fee and agreement to abide by the spay and neuter agreement requirements. Violation of this subsection will constitute a class 4 misdemeanor.</p>	<p>lien against the owner or custodian and must be discharged prior to release of the animal.</p> <p>(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to harbor or keep stray or an ownerless animal for more than forty-eight (48) hours without notifying the animal protection unit. All stray animals found by any person within the city limits shall be brought to the city animal management center for confinement and disposition within ten (10) days. Anyone bringing such an animal to the city animal management center will be allowed to claim such animal after the holding period provided such animal is not determined to be a health or safety hazard. Impoundment and boarding fees shall be waived for such person upon payment of the adoption fee and agreement to abide by the spay and neuter agreement requirements. Violation of this subsection will constitute a class 4 misdemeanor.</p>
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### **NACC update and specific concerns**

- Dogs gone swimming was a huge success – biggest amount raised so far (\$17,000 and 700 attendees)
- Dogtoberfest at O'Connor Brewing on October 26<sup>th</sup> – fun fundraiser, all are invited to attend.
- Redesign on Friends of NACC website – this will hopefully generate more fundraising so NACC can hold more adoption events
- Barb shared several good new stories of animal rescues and noted that intake was down however they do have 8 dogs on court holds currently and did receive a second wave of kittens that have been moved into foster care
- Jean remarked that the photos and the quality of writing that is done on the pets section of the Pilot is excellent and has really improved. Barb feels it's a great communication tool and notes that they have gotten great press from the Pilot. She worries that downsizing at the Pilot may hinder this press in the future. It was noted that NACC should work with them on utilizing the banners on the side of the online version of the pilot
- Over 1600 adoptions to date which is down a bit from last year at this point but intake is also down about 10-11%. Euthansia rates are down 21%
- Currently the shelter has a 61% live release rate – this rate has been steadily climbing each year.

Any concerns/issues/questions

- Meeting adjourned

### **5. Assignments**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned To</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Send application for boards and commission to Rob Blizzard	Jean	
Communicate with CAO regarding additional questions on ordinance revision	David, Susan, John	

### **6. Next Meeting**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>RECORDER</b>
January 7, 2015	4:00 – 5:30 pm	City Hall, 10th Floor	John Norfleet
Agenda: TBA, available prior to the meeting; will be emailed to attendees.			